

# The Weather Whisper

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Become an NWS cooperative observer!
- Staff Spotlight - Meet Andrew

## March 5th Tornadoes

Brooke Hagenhoff, Meteorologist

On March 5, 2022 three primary supercells swept across Iowa, producing several tornadoes. Two supercells in southern Iowa produced at least six tornadoes. Meanwhile, a single long track supercell produced multiple tornadoes from the southwest corner of Iowa all the way through central Iowa and into east central Iowa. The largest tornado produced by this storm moved across Madison, Warren, Polk, and Jasper counties for nearly 70 miles and at its peak produced winds of nearly 170 mph. This is the first EF-4 tornado in Iowa since October 4, 2013 which occurred in Woodbury and Cherokee Counties. This is also second longest tornado in Iowa since 1980, behind the longest occurring on June 7, 1984 at a length of 117 miles across southern Iowa.

Additional information on this event, including individual tornado stats, can be found [HERE](#).



Significant structural damage in Winterset (above) and tree damage in Chariton at Red Haw State Park (below). Photos from NWS damage surveys.

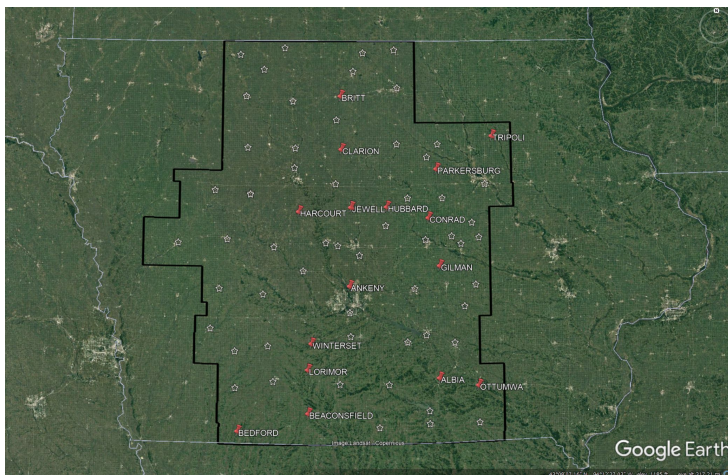


# Become an NWS Observer

Brooke Hagenhoff, Meteorologist

Have you ever looked at a snowfall map after a storm and wondered “Where did that information come from?” The answer is our network of dedicated volunteer weather observers. These individuals report daily high/low temperature and precipitation using NWS provided equipment, but the number of observers has dwindled in recent years. The impact extends well beyond just knowing how much snow or rain fell. These observers form the local climate record and their data can be used in determining federal relief during and after disaster (droughts to floods and more) - often millions of dollars. Without local observations, agencies often look to surrounding observations which may not always represent the local impacts.

So can you or someone you know (including a local business/agency) help us? For more information please contact [cory.martin@noaa.gov](mailto:cory.martin@noaa.gov) or [allan.curtis@noaa.gov](mailto:allan.curtis@noaa.gov)



Map of coop stations in the Des Moines office area. Stars represent active sites. Red pins denote sites in need of an observer.



## Andrew Ansorge

*Areas of Interest*

*Partner engagement, satellite, and hydrology*

## Background



Lead Meteorologist



7 years

I began my NWS career at the New Orleans office in mid-2014 launching weather balloons, extensive forecast and radar training, and learning about partner engagement. After an amazing 3 hurricane free summers, I transferred to the Des Moines office in early 2017, which was a move back home being originally from northwest Iowa. Beyond forecasting and high impact weather operations, my focus continues on partner outreach and engagement with projects in hydrology and more generally ways to improve our operations and services. My favorite thing about the NWS is being able to help our partners and the public make informed decisions through actionable information.

On the Cover:

Large tornado moving through Winterset, IA on March 5, 2022. This tornado produced EF-4 damage in Winterset and was on the ground for nearly 70 miles. Photo courtesy of Roger Riley.



Contact the Editors:

[brooke.hagenhoff@noaa.gov](mailto:brooke.hagenhoff@noaa.gov)  
[kristy.carter@noaa.gov](mailto:kristy.carter@noaa.gov)  
[ashley.bury@noaa.gov](mailto:ashley.bury@noaa.gov)